Two new shrikes for Kenya

by P. L. Britton

Received 11th May, 1970

Lake Kanyaboli forms the north-eastern boundary of Yala Swamp in extreme western Kenya, and figures prominently as a locality for papyrus-frequenting species in Britton and Harper (1969). During further activities in this area in 1969 I obtained *Laniarius mufumbiri* Ogilvie-Grant in papyrus and *Lanius nubicus* Lichtenstein in adjacent Acacia savanna. Neither is previously known from Kenya.

Laniarius mufumbiri

♂, 14th September, Yala Swamp; imm ♀, 21st September, Lake Kanyaboli; ♂, 29th November, Lake Kanyaboli.

This gonolek is strictly confined to papyrus swamps from west of Lake Edward to Mt. Elgon (Hall and Moreau, in press), and the above specimens represent an extension of known range. It is common in Yala Swamp and in the papyrus fringing Lake Kanyaboli, and in the course of a six hour canoe journey through the interior of the swamp it was one of the most noticeable species, due to its repeated calling.

Moreau (1966) has drawn attention to the large concentration of breeding shrike species in Kenya, but none of these is typically an inhabitant of papyrus, although *Tchagra m. minuta* (Hartlaub) occurs alongside *L. mufumbiri* in the more open areas of papyrus close to, or at, the swamp edge. *Mufumbiri* is smaller than other gonoleks and it is the only one sympatric with another (Hall and Moreau, *op. cit.*). The sympatric *L. barbarus erythrogaster* (Cretzschmar) is common in *Lantana* thickets and other low cover bordering the swamp and it frequently wanders to the swamp edge where I have twice seen *mufumbiri*, once chasing *barbarus*. They are, then, virtually segregated ecologically, and the smaller *mufumbiri*, with quite different bill and feet, presumably takes different food. The stomach of the November specimen contained ants (Formicinae, Myrmicinae) and beetles (Carabidae, Curculionidae, Elateridae, Lagriidae, Staphylinidae). Measurements (mm and grammes) from Central Nyanza are:

	Mufumbiri	*Barbarus* (15 unsexed birds)
Wing	♂♂ 95, 98 imm ♀ 86 o 93	98–109 (101.0 ± 3.1)
Weight	♂♂ 45, 46 imm ♀ 40 o 45	42–56 (51.1 ± 3.6)

The description of the immature plumage in Mackworth-Praed and Grant (1955) is very misleading, being quite unlike that in either van Someren (1922) or Jackson (1938). It is probably derived from an almost fully moulted bird. The four immature *L. barbarus erythrogaster* in the collection of the British Museum (Nat. Hist.) illustrate this problem well, for two are truly immature (with very little crimson) whereas the others differ little from the adult. My immature was probably fairly young as it was accompanied by an adult and its skull was little ossified. It conforms very closely with the "first plumage" description in van Someren (*op. cit*).

Mackworth-Praed and Grant (*op. cit.*) consider *mufumbiri* conspecific with nominate *barbarus* and use the English name Gonolek. This is confusing as it is also used to describe all *Laniarius* with crimson underparts. I suggest the

name Papyrus Gonolek for *mufumbiri* as it reflects the unusual ecology of this species.

Lanius nubicus

Imm, 9th November, Lake Kanyaboli, wt. 21.0g, wing 90mm, two innermost primaries in pin (innermost more advanced).

Mackworth-Praed and Grant (*op. cit.*) and White (1962) record this palearctic migrant south to Lake Rudolf. Archer and Godman (1961) describe its wintering range in more detail and the Lake Rudolf record is in fact "probably somewhere near Lake Rudolf", this and Lake Albert (Chapin 1954) being the only known localities south of 10° N.

The immature from Lake Kanyaboli must be considered a vagrant and it is interesting that it was present at a time of exceptional abundance of palearctic migrants of several species, including *Lanius senator niloticus* (Bonaparte).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to thank the following staff of the British Museum (Nat. Hist.): P. R. Colston for identifying the *Lanius nubicus* specimen and arranging the loan of immature *Laniarius barbarus erythrogaster* material; P. M. Hammond and R. T. Thompson for identifying the beetles; and R. A. Bourne for identifying the ants.

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Buccal colours in some sunbirds

by R. K. Brooke

Received 19th June, 1970

I (Brooke 1970) drew attention to the variation with age, sex and reproductive condition of the buccal or palate colours of sunbirds with particular reference to *Nectarinia bifasciata* (Shaw). Two published references to this matter in African sunbirds were overlooked: Bates (1911) recorded that *N. batesi* (Ogilvie-Grant) and *N. minulla* (Reichenow) had nestlings with orange palates and Swynnerton (1916 with coloured plates) recorded the same colour for a nestling *N. venusta* (Shaw and Nodder) and black for an unsexed adult. Brooke (1970) records orange as the buccal colour of a nestling *N. cuprea* (Shaw) and that fledged juvenals of *N. bifasciata* and *N. sovimangv* (Gmelin) have orange-yellow or rich yellow colours. I have collected a female *N. senegalensis* (L.) in post juvenal moult on 22nd March near Salisbury in Rhodesia with orange buccal colour. It would appear that orange is the